

mmodate. (Written to David Humphreys, from Paris,). F. V., 89.)

HE CONSTITUTION.—But when I consider that the limits of United States are precisely fixed by the treaty of 1783, that Constitution expressly declares itself to be made for the :ed States, I cannot help believing the intention was to lit Congress to admit into the Union new States, which ild be formed out of the territory for which, and under se authority alone, they were then acting. I do not be-: it was meant that they might receive England, Ireland, land, etc., into it, which would be the case on your con-:tion. When an instrument admits two constructions, the safe, the other dangerous, the one precise, the other in-lite, I prefer that which is safe and precise. I had rather an enlargement of power from the nation, where it is found :ssary, than to assume it by a construction which would :e our powers boundless. Our peculiar security is in pos-.on of a written Constitution. Let us not make it blank ir by construction. I say the same as to the opinion of those

consider the grant of the treaty making
power as bound-

If it is, then we have no Constitution. If it
has bounds,

r can be no others than the definitions of the
powers which

instrument gives. It specifies and delineates the opera-s permitted to the Federal Government, and gives all the •ers necessary to carry these into execution. Whatever of e enumerated objects is proper for a law, Congress may :e the law; whatever is proper to be executed by way of a ty, the President and Senate may enter into the treaty; what-• is done by a Judicial sentence, the Judges may pass the :ence. Nothing is more likely than that their enumeration lowers is defective. This is the ordinary case of all human ks. Let us go on then perfecting it, by adding, by way of ;ndment to the Constitution, those powers which time and I show are still wanting. But it has been taken too much granted, that by the rigorous construction the treaty power ild be reduced to nothing. I had

occasion once to examine effect on the French
treaty, made by the old Congress, and